advertisements routes instead of sending them to the newspapers and magazines empanelled by D.A.V.P.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no binding on them in the matter by D.A.V.P; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency for production and release of all display advertisements of the Government of India through the media of press, posters, folders, calendars, blotters, leaflets, holdings, cinema slides, etc. and also release of classified advertisements on behalf of the Government of India. However, for their creative advertisements the Ministries/Departments may engage specialised or other voluntary agencies; in such case too, they should go through DAVP for placing their advertisements in the newspapers and other media.

Advisory letters have been issued by this Ministry from time to time inviting attention of the Central Government Ministries/ Departments to these provisions and requesting them to release their advertisements through DAVP only.

As far as State Governments are concerned, they are free to formulate their own Advertising Policy.

Popularity of DD

†2566. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Governments with a view to making Doordarshan popular and competitive with the private channels;

(b) the steps Government propose to check the objectionable and indecent advertisements being telecast on various channels; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of news bulletin and telecast the same every hour like the Star News and the Aaj Tak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has been improving its programming structure and making policy changes to match the competition, while discharging its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster. Various steps like appointment of Export Advisory Groups, revised guidelines for bringing transparency and objectivity in programming, improvement in transmission quality and awards for excellence, have been taken to enhance the quality and content of Doordarshan programmes.

(b) Doordarshan abides by its code for commercial advertising which prohibits telecast of indecent advertisements on its channels.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Hourly News Bulletins are telecast round the clock on its National Network. Several Regional Kendras have also increased the number of news bulletins.

Setting up of radio stations in educational institutions

†2567. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up radio stations at educational institutions;

(b) if so, what would be the type of the said radio stations along with the broadcasting capacity thereof; and

(c) the number of such stations to be set up in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh together with the name of the places where they would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to grant Community

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.